



News & Events

University News & Information

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Poly Theatre and Dance Department to Stage 'Glass Menagerie' May 13-15, May 20-22

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department will stage Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" Thursday-Saturday, May 13-15 and May 20- 22, as the last main-stage production of its 2003-04 season. All shows will be at 8 p.m. in the Cal Poly Theatre.

Originally produced on Broadway in 1945, "The Glass Menagerie" was Williams' first commercial and artistic success. The play remains the most distinctly autobiographical of his plays, which include such classics as "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "The Night of the Iguana," according to Theatre and Dance Department Associate Chair Pamela Malkin.

"Set in St. Louis during the Depression, 'The Glass Menagerie' chronicles the struggles of Tom, Amanda and Laura Wingfield to escape the stifling realities of their lives," explained Malkin, who is directing the play. "The play has been hailed as both a realistic masterpiece and a hauntingly poetic memory play."

Malkin has directed a variety of productions at Cal Poly, including last year's musical, "Guys and Dolls." Theatre and Dance Professor Al Schnupp is the scenic and properties designer. He has directed many productions at Cal Poly, such as "A Wrinkle in Time." He has also designed several Theatre and Dance Department productions, including "Into the Woods."

The guest costume designer for "The Glass Menagerie" is Teresa Shea, a Los Angeles-based artist with extensive film, television and stage credits. She recently designed costumes for the feature film "Jekyll," as well as productions at the Actor's Gang and Ensemble Theatre companies in Los Angeles.

Les Solomon, of the Foothill Theatre Company in Nevada City, is the show's guest lighting designer. Solomon also designed lights for the Theatre and Dance Department productions "All My Sons" and "Guys and Dolls."

Howard Gee of the Theatre and Dance Department is the show's technical director. Cleo Bare, a sophomore theatre arts major from Santa Cruz, is

the stage manager. Assistant stage manager is Krista Schnoenbaum, a freshman theatre arts major from Culver City.

Andrew Halberstadt, a senior social science major from Anaheim, will portray the central character, Tom Wingfield, as well as the show's narrator. Halberstadt played Theramene in the university's fall 2003 production of "Phedre."

Amanda Wingfield, Tom's complex and demanding mother, will be portrayed by Mariam Jabr. Last seen in the Theatre and Dance Department production of "Ellemosynary," Jabr is a senior theatre arts major from Morgan Hill.

Sarah Claspell, a senior majoring in business and theatre arts, plays the reclusive Laura Wingfield. Claspell, from Gilroy, has appeared in the Theatre and Dance productions of "Guys and Dolls," "The Miser" and "Phedre."

Jim O'Connor, Laura's gentleman caller, will be portrayed by Matt Wechter, a senior biology major from Santa Ana. Wechter has appeared in a variety of community theater musicals in Orange County. "The Glass Menagerie" is his first Theatre and Dance Department main-stage production.

Tickets to the performance are \$10 to \$12 and can be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call SLO-ARTS (756-2787).

For more information on the production, call Cal Poly's Theatre and Dance Department at 756-1465.

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